

ALL LONDON SQUATTERS COMIC



NO.1 (TRIAL ISSUE) 16TH FEBRUARY 1990

INSIDE:-

HISTORY OF SQUATTING - PART 1

ASS
SHIP

SQUAT
NOW!

SQUATTING IN :-
STOKE NEWINGTON,
BRISTOL, THE WORLD...

ALL LONDON
SQUATTERS
GATHERING
SUN 25TH FEB 6pm
AT
612 OLD KENT RD.
LONDON SE15

HOMES
FOR
ALL



HISTORY OF SQUATTING PART 1

Ten years of the Thatcher Government has brought the homeless figures into third world proportions. Of the 75,000 homeless people in London, squatters are the biggest category.

The history of squatting goes back further than the days of the Anarchic Punks and the Political Activists of the 70's and the 80's trying to beat the system, refusing to conform and making a political stance against the state of the country. Even the hippies of the 60's attempting to create an alternative lifestyle with their communes, bookshops and vegetarian cafes weren't the first to squat. It is a well known fact that after the First World War soldiers returning to their 'homes fit for heroes', that didn't exist beyond government propaganda, were forced to squat with their families.

The Second World War finished and this brought in a new wave of squatting. Ex-servicemen and women returned to the country to find themselves homeless. Families squatted in empty hotels, second homes and even disused army barracks.

In England records of squatting can be traced back to the middle ages. The Diggers are probably the best known squatters of that time.

THE DIGGERS

After the 'revolution' in 1649 things were still no better for the poor of this country. The Diggers or True Levellers became prominent in April of that year and are recorded as being a socialist sect

headed by Gerrard Winstanley, although the Diggers did practice the principles of early anarchism. They were unable and unwilling to pay rent to the rich landlords so they took over wasteland and started to build their own communities near Cobham, Surrey and elsewhere in southern England. Time after time they were attacked by soldiers at the request of local priests and lords. Their crops were pulled up and they themselves were beaten up. They were under severe pressure from the landowners and the state led by Cromwell.

The Diggers were pacifists and made no resistance to the violence imposed on them. They moved from site to site trying to encourage others to follow their example of communal living and they struggled on for two years preaching a vision of common ownership and shared labour.

Because of their willingness to accept the violence and destruction of the state without fighting back the Diggers were short lived. They have shown by nature of their example of common and equal work, without lords or masters, that there can be an alternative to the robbery and inequality of capitalism. The early Quakers were considerably influenced by the ideas of the Diggers.

St. Georges Hill is the most famous of the Diggers' plots of squatted land. It is now a select residential area full of yuppie stockbrokers.

You noble diggers all
Stand up now, stand up now
You noble diggers all stand up now
The wasteland to maintain
Seen cavaliers by name
Your digging does maintain
And persons all defame
Stand up now, stand up now.

Your houses they pull down
Stand up now, stand up now
Your houses they pull down, stand up now
Your houses they pull down
To fright your men in town
But the gentry must come down
And the poor shall wear the crown
Stand up now, diggers all.

With spades and hose and ploughs
Stand up now, stand up now
With spades and hose and ploughs
stand up now
Your freedom to oppose
Seen cavaliers are bold
To kill you if they could
And rights from you to hold
Stand up now, diggers all.

The gentry are all round
Stand up now, stand up now
The gentry are all round stand up now
The gentry are all round
On each side they art bound
To cheat us of our grou.id
Stand up now, stand up now.

The lawyers they conjoin
Stand up now, stand up now
The lawyers they conjoin stand up now
To arrest you they advise
Such fury they devise
The devll In them lles
And are blind In both their eyes
Stand up now, stand up now.

The clergy they como In
Stand up now, stand up now
The clergy they come In stand up now
The clergy they come In
And say It Is a sin
That we should now begin
Our freedom for to win
Stand up now, diggers all.

'Gainst lawyers and 'gainst priests
Stand up now, stand up now
'Gainst lawyers and 'gainst priests
stand up now
For tyrants they are born
Thieve and plot against their own
To grant us they ar« loathed
Free meat and drink and cloth
Stand up now, diggers all.

The club Is all their law
Stand up now, stand up now
The club Is all their law stand up
now
The club ts all their law
To keep all men In oar
But they no vision saw
To maintain such a law
Stand up now, diggers all.

Written In 1649 by Gerrard
Winstanley.

INTRODUCTION

On the 2nd January 1990 a benefit gig was held at the Sir George Robey, Finsbury Park, in aid of All London Squatters. The gig was a great success, around 300 people turned up to see a number of bands including Splodge, Skitzo and Demented are Go. Bands performed free of charge and were playing from 5.30pm until 2am. £275 was raised on the night and that excludes a small amount for expenses. The organisers left the money in the hands of SHIP to decide how it could be used most effectively, so on the 25th February we will be holding an All London Squatters Gathering to decide how to use or share the money.

At SHIP we propose that the money be used to bring out a newsletter for All London Squatters so we have used our share to produce this. We would like to see other Squatting Groups follow suit and continue to publish it in rotation. Anyway, the future of this newsletter can be discussed at the All London Squatters Gathering. Hope you like it, please help to make it a success for the future.

This edition was produced at SHIP, 612 Old Kent Road, London SE15, Tel; 277 7639.



COMMENT...

Well, reckon this paper is a bloody good idea.

BUT, if it is going to be as good as it could be, maybe a bit of thinking needs to be done about one or two things:

DISTRIBUTION This matters just as much as the content and coming out regularly. It would be a complete waste if the paper just circulates around the existing squat groups and the "ghetto" of post-punk anarch squatters (speaking as a pre-punk of that ilk). It needs to get around much more widely, especially to new squatters and homeless people who might think about squatting. Can't say I've got magic answers to the problem, but getting it into bookshops (i.e. ones that pay rent) and bundles to advice centres where homeless people go (e.g. Piccadilly Advice Centre and loads of others). They might even buy them and help to fund the paper. Distribution is a lot of work, but it should be possible to get 1,000 around so that they are actually read.

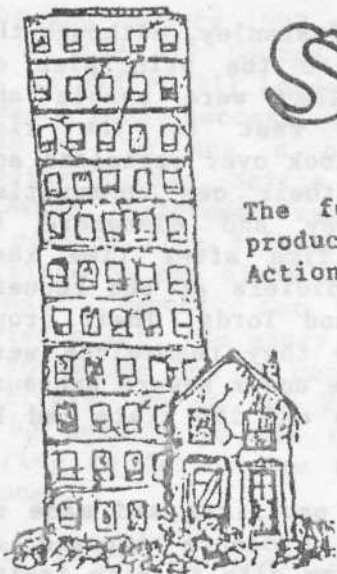
PRODUCING IT I don't think the idea of circulating the job around the squat groups will work. Many of them don't have the energy/time and some aren't convinced a paper like this is a priority. No reflection on anybody at all, but a system like this is inherently unreliable. Some people will remember that the attempt to produce a national squatters paper this way failed a couple of years ago for exactly that reason. Also, even if it did work, the paper would tend to stay mainly around the areas which already have squat groups instead of getting around the right places in, say Westminster or Newham.

I reckon it would be better done by a group of people (no doubt mainly also active in local squat groups) who have decided to make the paper their main commitment. Rather like ASS is a collective of people from all over who make that their main squatty activity, this could be a similar open collective for journalism, writing and agitation by squatters about squatting, like ASS is in legal and bureaucratic stuff.

The money that's around could be used to produce several pilot issues, while we work towards building up such a collective and the distribution links we'll need. Honey to sustain it long-term would also need to be thought about, but ought to be a solvable problem provided this doesn't go the way of many good ideas which sink in untogetherness for lack of

.....CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE.

SICK OF..... HOMELESSNESS, BAD HOUSING, HIGH RENT.....
EVER THOUGHT OF.....



SQUATTING?

The following was taken from a leaflet
produced by Stoke Newington Housing
Action.

WHAT IS SQUATTING?

Basically, squatting means getting into a house or flat that is empty and making it your home. Like all other households, squatters have the right to essential services such as electricity, water, post, gas, rubbish collection and so on. Squatting means using empty property to live in, empty property that would otherwise tot away.

IS IT LEGAL?

Yes, squatting is legal. The only time you are committing a criminal offence is if you cause criminal damage when getting into the property. However, it is very difficult to prove this in court so very few people are actually charged. The important thing that you must remember is to get in quickly and quietly, causing as little damage as possible.

WHO ARE STOKE NEWINGTON HOUSING ACTION

Stoke Newington Housing Action is made up of squatters who are committed to helping people escape the total poverty of homelessness and bad housing.

We can supply:-

1. an up-to-date list of empty houses and flats;
2. practical help on how to gain entry into empties;
3. advice on gas and electricity problems;
4. basic legal advice;
5. 'The Squatters' Handbook' - a helpful and very practical guide to all aspects of squatting;
6. other more general information.

But Stoke Newington Housing Action is not an 'estate agents' - we want to help people to help themselves and we are also committed to challenging the causes of the housing crisis that forces people into squatting.

SQUATTING IN HACKNEY

The majority of squatted houses in Hackney are owned by the council. Some are houses but most are round on the many estates in the borough. Many have been empty for



months and often years, which means that sometimes they're in a bad state of disrepair. The time that you can get in a squat can vary from between 6 months to a year - or even longer. On the whole, the police in Hackney recognise squatting as a symptom of the housing crisis and so rarely intervene. It is also very possible to squat in privately owned places and Housing Association houses (as long as, of course, 'they're empty').

HACKNEY COUNCIL

Due to a combination of central government cuts and complete inefficiency, there are over 3000 empty council homes in Hackney. As well as this, there are nearly 5000 empty homes here that are owned by property speculators and Housing Associations. Added to this are the many thousands of people who are homeless or in very poor housing. Squatting is a short term solution to the housing crisis for many people. Some people say that it's "queue jumping" but that ignores the basic reality of the housing situation - homelessness plus empty homes equals a lot of squatting. It is the government officials, property speculators and the councillors who are the guilty ones, not squatters because they are the ones responsible for the housing crisis.



A GROWING SOLUTION IN TIMES OF HARDSHIP

Finding a decent home is becoming harder and harder - unless you've got loadsa money! Not only is squatting a solution to the housing crisis, but it also shows that we don't have to rely on rich landlords or useless councils. It's time that we started to take things that we need for ourselves. It is important that we share the knowledge we gain with as many people as possible. We can all help by making lists of empty property, by helping people get in, by getting involved with Stoke Newington Housing Action or other squatting/housing action groups. Squatting is not the problem - the real problem is the housing crisis, the empty homes, the fact that homes are seen in terms of profit and power, not real human need.



If you want to find out more about squatting or are looking for a squat, come to our regular meetings every Monday from 6pm to 8pm at the Old Fire Station (61 Leswin Road, Stoke Newington, N16, just off Stoke Newington High Street. For more information, contact the Advisory Service for Squatters (2a St. Pauls Road, N1, 359 8814 (2pm - 6pm, Mondays to Fridays)). They can also put you in touch with other squatters' groups in London and across the country.



ASS REACHES THE PARTS . . .

Advisory Service for Squatters (ASS -not the "SAS") has been around for 15 years now. Comes from having a cheap rented office, rather than a squatted place.

We are a bit different from other squat groups, because we aren't local to anywhere in particular. We aim to give legal and practical advice to squatters and homeless people from all over England and Wales, mainly by running a daily telephone advice service and publishing SQUATTERS HANDBOOK and other information. Quite a few people who contact us are from outside London, and squatting is clearly growing in places like Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and Bristol, as well as various small towns and rural corners. Mainly, though, its London squatters who find us useful to have around.

We are a collective of about 12 people, running the office and the advice line on a rota, dealing with up to 30 calls a day. We have a meeting every week to discuss the more difficult problems which come up and keep ASS organised. ASS always welcomes new members to join the collective (see below).

Because we aren't local to anywhere, our practical squatting advice is a bit more general than local squat groups can give. We always suggest people go along to local groups, where they exist, if they want advice about picking the best place to squat, studying the local style of steel doors, dealing with the fuel boards etc. etc. Where ASS can come into its own is in providing accurate and up to date legal advice on all the hassles visited on squatters and homeless people, such rights as we might have, and how to make sure we get them. Mostly, this is purely defensive stuff, but just occasionally it is possible to use the state's laws creatively to put various, bits of its apparatus right up shit creek.

NOT JUST SQUATTERS

A fair bit of the advice we give isn't about squatting, as such. We are often contacted by people who think they're squatters but aren't (such as unlawful sub-tenants or private tenants whose agreement has run out). Sometimes, people believe their only choice is to leave where they're living and squat, not knowing they have rights where they are and to go off squatting would only be letting some landlord or council off the hook. More often, people with rights to be housed by the council have been fobbed off. Asserting their rights might be a better route to what they want than squatting is.

On the other hand, people who find themselves dropped through one of the loopholes in the laws about housing rights can sometimes fix things by squatting in a carefully selected borough for a while and telling that council a carefully selected story when eviction time comes. Our aim is to explain people's situation as fully as we can, together with any choices they may have apart from squatting. We don't believe in just advising everyone to squat, but in giving people full information so that they can make their own decision about what is in their best interests. Of course, most people have no choice -and squatting certainly beats sleeping rough!

EVERYONE RINGS US I

Because we are well-known and in every directory of housing or advice organisations around, a wider range of people contact us than would usually turn up at many local squatting groups (much as we encourage them to) -pensioners, dead straight families, tenants who want to squat flats on their estates for their children or relatives- all sorts of folk as well as the mostly-youngish, mostly-childless, mostly-subversive connection that forms the squatting movement in London (such as it is). There seem to be about

30,000 squatters in London (plus a hell of a lot more unlawful sub-tenants etc.), but maybe not more than 500 or 1,000 of us who could be described as any sort of squatting movement.

EVEN THE "PROFESSIONALS"

Another consequence of being well-known is that we are often consulted by other advice centres, law centres, etc. for specialist support or ideas about squatting problems. Recently, we have been trying to raise awareness and technical expertise about squatting in such circles. We are also able to maintain contact (to the extent it is useful) with housing organisations and campaigns such as Shelter and try to make sure they have things straight about squatting.

We also get numerous enquiries from the media and researchers. Sometimes, if we are satisfied about their approach and the likely result, we give them interviews, information or background material. If we do this, we are always careful to make it clear that no way do we "co-ordinate" or "organise" squatting, neither can we speak for or represent squatters in general. We just give our own views about squatting, the housing crisis, what councils, courts and the government are up to, etc., based on our experience.

SOME SUCCESSES

Host of the work ASS does, beyond simply giving advice, is trying to help squatters with fighting evictions and other legal problems. This mostly means helping people put together Affidavits for court cases, sometimes going down there with them, or trying to see off attempts by councils to fiddle squatters out with bent PIO certificates, and other similar work.

Last year we had a good success in clobbering Tower Hamlets council through the "Ombudsman" (*) for two PIO con-jobs. They were told to pay compensation to the squatters! Took

a year and didn't stop those particular squatters getting evicted, but it has stopped the bastards trying it on any more. We have also been able to develop a couple of delaying devices for ordinary evictions through the courts. Really, they amount to exploiting council's idiocy and getting the courts annoyed with them. Often works, but not always because courts are just casinos, really!

THE FUTURE BIG CHANGES COMING

The work both ASS and local squat groups are doing is going to be even more vital over the next couple of years. Not only are there more people homeless than ever, but monumental changes to the situation in which squatting has operated ever since 1945 are going to start rolling over us very soon.

Last year, a lot of people thought the 1988 Housing Act would change our situation. It didn't, and isn't likely to, except in a few isolated cases. What is coming into force in April is another Act which hasn't had much publicity and isn't worrying squatters at the moment -although it should. It's the Housing Finance Act, 1989.

This Act doesn't say anything at all about squatting or change the laws concerning our liberation of unused homes. What it does do is ensure that councils won't be able to have any empty, squatted or short-life properties. They will have to show the government they are getting an "adequate return" (i.e. lots of money) for the housing stock they have. If they aren't pulling in rents for empty properties, they'll have to get that amount of money another way by putting up the rents of their existing tenants. This is often politically unacceptable and will be very divisive if they do it. Some councils will -and then blame the squatters for the rent rises!

Councils are going to be desperate to get flats tenanted. At first, this

might be an incentive to give squatters tenancies, but after that they'll be shoving people into any old wreck or else, if a whole block or estate is in very bad nick, flogging or transferring it to a housing association (who now have access to money the councils can't get their hands on). Some councils will even flog off to private owners, which the '68 Act facilitates. Quite soon, it's likely that most squatters will be in housing association places rather than council ones. These will not last nearly as long as council squats do now, and there will be much reduced squatting opportunities generally.

AND POLL TAX TOO !

Unlawful sub-tenants may also be under threat. Apart from other nasties, the Poll Tax register is a potential tool for councils to suss out just who *is* living in their places. Quite apart from squatting, we reckon up to 25%-30% of council flats on some estates aren't occupied by the people the council thinks are there. This is going to lead to a lot more homelessness.

ASS's main job immediately, we reckon, is to get a new edition of *SQUATTERS HANDBOOK* out. Not that the current one is wrong or misleading - it just doesn't address the new situation. We've got the money. All we need to do is write the bastard and get it 100% reliable, which is especially difficult this time. Currently we ain't making much progress because of the pressure of running the office and sorting out court cases, but we're trying. We aim to have a chapter on travellers' rights and boat-squatting, both of which we're getting enquiries about. The sort of material SHIP are getting together about sleeping rough might also have a useful place.

NEW PACES WELCOME !

YES, the Collective needs new people. If you have some time you could give, please think about it, especially if you are the sort of subversive pedant who likes teasing out the subtleties and contradictions of laws and bureaucracies, and using them to defeat their own purposes.

BUT...there is usually a lot to learn. Most new people in ASS take about three months to feel confident about advising people on many things, so it probably isn't worth getting involved if you aren't going to be around for at least six months.

Because we are a small collective operating a rota and sharing knowledge with each other, there isn't really room in ASS for fringe members. Better to be committed for a time and then drop out if you need to, rather than being involved irregularly.

You need to be able to come to the weekly meetings, which are the only time we all see each other (currently Wednesdays 7.30) as well as doing an afternoon in the office once a week or fortnight.

Hope this hasn't put you off, but if you want to get involved, come along to a meeting any Wednesday night and see if ASS is for you.

ASS Collective

(*) Sexist shorthand for the Parliamentary Commissioner for Local Administration, if you really want to know.

THE ASS OFFICE IS OPEN
MON-FRI, 2-6pm, 359-8814
Please ring before calling)
2, ST. PAULS ROAD, N1 2QN

HISTORY OF SHIP PART 1

SQUATTERS NETWORK OF WALWORTH

MARCH 1983 - JULY 1988

The decision to form a squatters network in Southwark was made in the beginning of 1983 and by March of that year SNOW (Squatters Network of Walworth) set up office in a prefeb at 3 Alvey St, SE17. From this office a regular newsheet called SNOWKAT (Squatters Newsheet of Walworth and Kinglake and Alvey Tenants) was being produced giving information, news and stories about the area. Tenants on the Kinglake and Alvey estates didn't like the name of the newsletter because people began to confuse it with KAT, the tenants' newsletter, so eventually it was given the name 'THE WIRE'.



By November 1983 the SNOW office was moved into a room in the GLC owned Ambulance Station on Old Kent Road. SNOW was continuing to give advice on squatting and was publishing 'THE WIRE' on a regular basis. It soon came time to expand and move to larger premises so on the night of Sunday 15th January 1985 SNOW activists entered an empty shop at 362 Old Kent Road and were soon granted a licence by the owners, the GLC. This shop became the SNOW office for the next 3 1/2 years.

The SNOW Collective had regular weekly meetings and the office was open Monday - Friday, 4-7pm. SNOW could give advice on all aspects of squatting and had very close links with the squatting community. SNOW was heavily involved in the mass resistance to evictions on the Kinglake and Pullens estates in June 1986 and by April 1987 the number of squats in Southwark had risen dramatically to over 2,000.



SNOW was becoming very successful in its campaign for squatters and Southwark Council soon began to feel the pressure of organised squatting. After the GLC dissolved, Southwark became the new owners of 362 and on 27th January 1988 they made it official council policy to evict SNOW.

In July, SNOW received a summons to appear in the High Court on 14th July 1988. At this time, leaflets produced by SHIP (Southwark Homeless Information Project) began to appear in the WIRE, SHIP were supposedly operating from the ground floor of 362.



The last edition of the WIRE came out on 8th July 1988 the headline read - 'SNOW in Court'. The court case was adjourned for SNOW to seek Judicial Review against Southwark. Two weeks later issue one of SHIP NEWS came out. SHIP (Southwark Homeless Information Project) had now taken the place of SNOW.

HISTORY OF SHIP PART 2

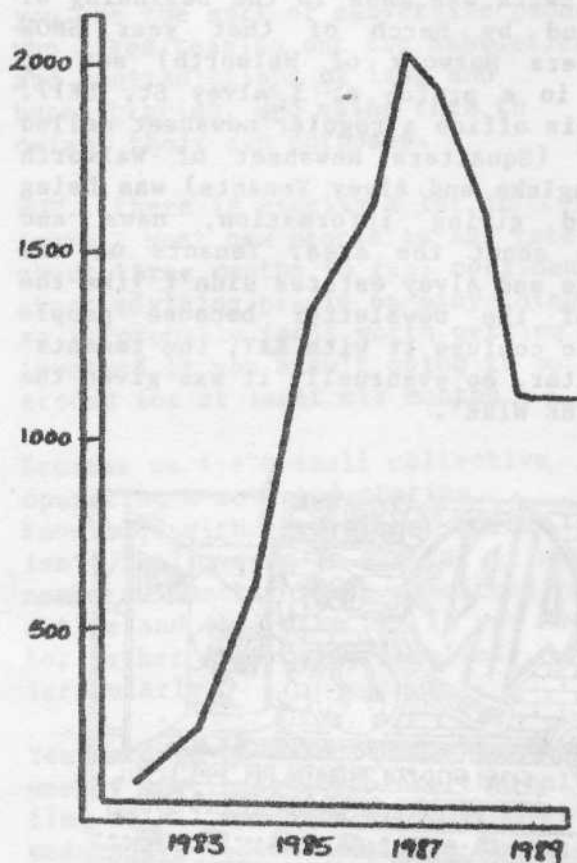
SOUTHWARK HOMELESS INFORMATION PROJECT

SHIP was officially set up in July 1988, working from 362 Old Kent Road, with the intention of becoming a registered charity. At this time there were about 1,600 squats in Southwark. By November 1988 the number of squats dropped drastically to 1,353 whilst the number of voids was increasing. This showed that squatted properties were being evicted but just left empty.

On 16th January 1989 SHIP became registered as a private limited company to try and obtain charitable status. At the same time SHIP was becoming very successful at encouraging squatters to defend themselves in the High Court under order 113. By March 1989 an average of 1 in 9 squats were gaining adjournments although the number of squats in the borough was still dropping but since then has stayed at the level of around 1,200 up until now.

SHIP gained charitable status on 21st April 1989 and started a fund raising campaign and a search for more permanent premises. The latter being not too success at this stage.

The search for a new property became more important. 362 Old Kent Road had been handed over to Southwark and on 14th November 1989 SHIP was to appear in the High Court under order 113.



NUMBER OF SQUATS IN SOUTHWARK
1982 - 1989



With the help of its solicitor, SHIP managed to suspend the possession order for six weeks.

In January 1990 SHIP acquired a new property to operate from, this time paying rent!

The property was ideal for SHIP, just further down the Old Kent Road.

SHIP continued to operate as normal and began to concentrate more on giving advice and monitoring court cases rather than on its own existence.

The new SHIP office is situated at 612 Old Kent Road and is open Monday to Friday, 4-7pm.

LEGAL
WORKSHOPS
AT 612 OLD KENT ROAD
WEDNESDAYS 7.30pm
TO DEVELOP NEW DEFENCE TECHNIQUES
FOR SQUATTERS IN THE COURTS.

LETTER FROM BRISTOL

SQUATTING GROUPS IN LONDON (16/2/90)

B.H.A.M.
BOX 4
Greenleaf Cafe
Bristol

Advisory Service **for Squatters (ASS)**
2 St. Pauls Road
London N1
Tel: 359 8814.... Mondays to Fridays 2-6pm

Dear 'Persons Concerned'

I am writing to you as a member/secretary of BHAM (Bristol Housing Action Movement), who as a group, have been in existence for over five years. We have regular meetings helping the homeless find accommodation while producing support for those already squatting, housing lists are provided and a tool service for those who need it. Some assistance can also be given to those who have difficulty moving into a squat.

Once upon a time BHAM held a squatters conference which was a great success. The conference took place over a weekend and attracted people from all over the country, unfortunately the conference didn't go a great deal further and after a somewhat smaller conference in Brighton the whole idea seemed to deteriorate into nothingness.

We haven't been in touch with squatting groups and related organisations nationally for some time, this being a situation we would like to change. Anyway our reason for getting in touch with you is to ask if you could please contact us and tell us a little about yourselves, what your 'organisation' is doing at the moment and how much support you receive. We'd also be grateful if you could send us any squatting group/or useful contact addresses you may have.

It is hoped that if we get favourable response we can arrange a 'National Squatting Conference' possibly in March sometime at a community centre that has been squatted and re-opened in Bristol. It's highly likely that there's a hell of a lot going on in your area/across the country which we don't know about and would be useful knowledge for a group such as ours. Anyway, must go, I hope we can contact you on a slightly more personal basis, hope you can be of some help.

Cheers, Mike.

P.S. Apologies for the officialness of this letter but it would be too much of a workload to get in touch with so many groups on an individual basis all at once.

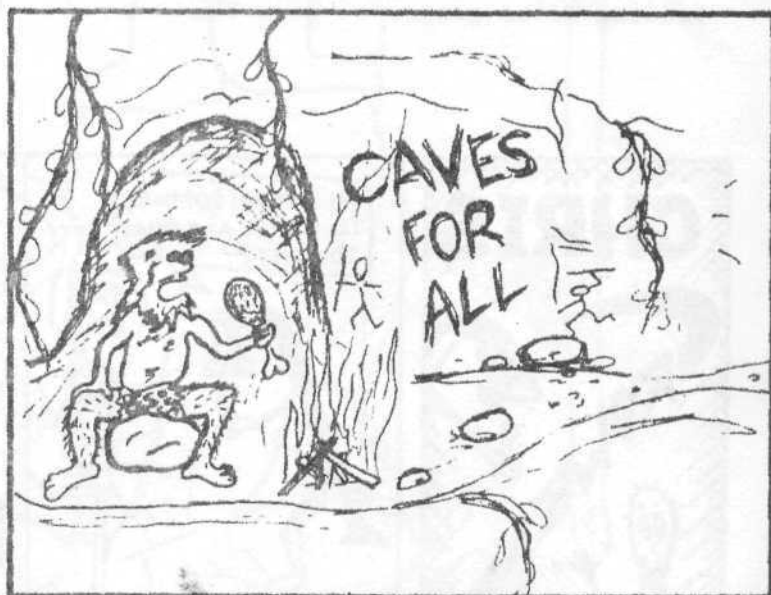
Brixton Squatters Aid
121 Railton Road
London SE24
Tel: 274 6655.....Sundays 3-5pm

Camden Squatters
Culross Hall
Battle Bridge Road
London NW1.....Tuesdays 7-8pm

Limehouse Squatters
17 Turners Road
London E3....Tues & Thur 6-9pm, Sat 1-4pm

Southwark Homeless Information Project
612 Old Kent Road
London SE15
Tel: 277 7639.... Mondays to Fridays 4-7pa

Stoke Newington Housing Action
61 Leswin Road
London N16..... Mondays 6.00-8.00pm



SQUATTING AROUND THE WORLD - PART 3

One of the world's biggest and oldest squats was the former Walled City of Kowloon in Hong Kong. The area was an anomaly in the treaty of 1898 when the British Empire took over the New Territories from China. The original convention of Peking, that was negotiated with the assistance of corrupt officials in the decaying Manchu empire, allowed for the Chinese to retain jurisdiction over this small area. The British government later tried to overrule this provision, but no Chinese govt has been found who would accept the unequal treaty. So as a result the Mailed City fell through a legal loophole with the Hong Kong govt unable to claim authority over the one hundredth of a square mile which lost its walls during WW2 and was just a small village of 436 in 1948, but following the Chinese revolution and the wave of refugees who have flooded into the British haven on the South this squat near Kaitak airport attracted more illegal immigrants, prostitutes and drugs than any other over-crowded tenement block in Hong Kong. Without building regulations it has been built up by the occupiers so that in 1975 the Hong Kong airport had to get the tops knocked off 2 new buildings which were obstructing the flight paths. Opium smoking and all forms of drug use are rife and the place is a haven for unqualified dentist!?, where authorities fear to tread. All the electric wiring is unpaid for and a notorious fire hazard. After a bloody power struggle affective control of the place has been shared by 2 leading Triad gangs.

But the People's Republic of China cannot allow itself to be blamed for permitting such lawlessness go unchecked and so an arrangement was reached in 1987 allowing the place to be demolished ~ with the 40,000 residents rehoused elsewhere - to make way for a public park.

ftwr t+z CAN! ge ftxjNio «N» f-ssv/es 36T
ANJO 36 OF -SHIP NEWS PAPER>V/6.L.Y,



•SHIP on Kinglake' and 'SHIP on Friary' (opposite) are examples of squatting newsletters produced at estate level.

....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.

communication and good organisation. We should also be thinking about having it printed as soon as possible and pulling strokes like making sure every issue gets to the straight media. Occasionally, they might do something good as a result, but more often they will give the paper lots of free publicity by slagging us off, so that many more homeless people will want to get hold of it.

Elvis De Seiser.

